

childhood poverty nearly in half. Four million American children, they expect, will be lifted. And when you are a child born into poverty, through no fault of your own, you may not have proper nutrition and food. You may not have proper education or healthcare or housing. And, by the time you are 14 or 15, you are in a big ditch. Now, many, to their credit, climb out on their own, but this will prevent so many from going forward into that ditch.

So it helps the poor, and it helps the middle class. We are proud of that.

To all of America's moms and dads, check your bank accounts this week. Check your bank account. You may not even know this is happening. If you filed taxes in either of the past 2 years, or in both of them, and you qualify for the credit, you will see this money automatically. If you didn't file taxes in either of the past 2 years, you can go online—irs.gov/childtaxcredit—and sign up today. Let me repeat that, folks, for you listening. Go to irs.gov/childtaxcredit and sign up. It is very simple and easy to sign up, and as long as your kids have a Social Security number, they can get it.

Republicans have for a very long time claimed to be the party of tax cuts, but when you read the fine print, it turns out that the Republican Party is the party of tax cuts for the wealthy and the well-connected.

Democrats are sending this check to American parents for the child tax credit, \$300 per month, courtesy of President Biden and Senate and congressional Democrats. Again, unfortunately, every Republican voted no.

And I want to give a lot of credit to Senator BENNET of Colorado and Senator BROWN of Ohio and Senator BOOKER of New Jersey and Senator WYDEN of Oregon and so many others who fought for this issue and helped make it a reality that today is going to happen.

So we say to the parents of America: Starting today, help—real help, significant help—is on the way, not just for the wealthy, as the Republicans like to give it, but for the poor and the middle class.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

CUBA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, throughout my career, I have been proud to amplify the voices of freedom fighters around the world, brave men and women working to secure the blessings of liberty that we enjoy here in America. And I have repeatedly shone a floodlight on the oppressive regimes that stand in their way. I have championed the pro-democracy movement in Burma, the brave advocates for freedom in Hong Kong.

Right now, the loudest cries for liberty are coming from pretty close to home. After enduring 60-plus years of socialist tyranny just 90 miles from American soil, the people of Cuba are

telling the world they have had enough—had enough. They have had enough of a regime that has stolen their dreams for decades. They have had enough of its stranglehold on information and on prosperity. They have had enough of its intimidation and its repression.

The past week's demonstration in the streets of Havana should represent a major turning point in the Cuban people's movement toward liberation. The regime's failed communist ideology has saddled generations of Cubans with a backward economy, inadequate services, and no means of justice or dissent.

Now, some naive Americans on the left seem intent on once again running interference for the Cuban regime. They still buy the propaganda that Cuba is a socialist paradise—paradise—with a model healthcare and education system that we should actually emulate. But the Cuban people see a different reality: an open-air prison that communism has run right into the ground.

Since the 1950s, the blight of Castro rule has driven many Cubans to flee to the United States. Generations of immigrants and their descendants have lived out and are living out American dreams of prosperity, achievement, and service. We are blessed to call them fellow Americans.

As Senator RUBIO put it so well this week, "The only country on this planet where Cubans are not successful is Cuba."

My hometown of Louisville is actually home to one of the largest Cuban-American populations in any American city outside of Florida. In recent days, this vibrant community has rallied by the hundreds in support of Cuban protesters. As one of these fellow Kentuckians of mine put it, "The only voice they have is us."

The brave men and women who have taken to the streets in Cuba are demanding freedoms they have been denied their entire lives. They deserve our strong support. I am proud to cosponsor a new resolution with Senator RUBIO and several other colleagues to communicate precisely that.

APPROPRIATIONS

Madam President, on another matter, this week, Democrats on the House Appropriations Committee are doing something so radical that it hasn't been done for decades. They are advancing an annual funding bill that leaves out the Hyde amendment, the commonsense prohibition on forcing taxpayers to fund abortion.

Since the 1970s, abortion has claimed the lives of more than 60 million unborn children. But at the very, very least, the mainstream, bipartisan Hyde amendment has ensured that taxpayers' hard-earned money is not funneled into this brutal practice.

A broad, bipartisan coalition agreed the American taxpayers should not be forced to underwrite this nightmare. And, by the way, a strong majority of Americans still agree with that proposition.

For decades, nearly his entire career, then-Senator Joe Biden was a reliable supporter of Hyde protections. One letter to a constituent read like this:

Those of us who are opposed to abortion should not be compelled to pay for them.

But a couple of years ago, on the President's campaign trail, our former colleague changed his tune. He let the demands of the increasingly radical left overcome a principle he had held literally for decades.

So earlier this year, the President's budget request obligingly proposed ending this longstanding protection. Yet another way in which the administration that sold itself as moderate and unifying is now spiraling way, way to the left. And this week, the House is following through.

In today's Democratic Party, there is no room to dissent from the far left's culture war, even in the most modest, most longstanding, most widely popular ways.

Senate Republicans are going to continue standing up for life, standing up for taxpayers, and standing up for the conscience rights of millions, millions of Americans who don't want the government laundering their hard-earned money to abortion providers. Republicans will stand with the majority of the American people, even if our colleagues across the aisle have given in to the most radical voices.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Madam President, now, on one final matter, earlier this week, new June figures further confirmed what working families across America already know all too well: Runaway costs are hitting the American people where it hurts.

Sadly, this was 100 percent predictable. Even top Democratic experts, like Larry Summers, warned that the jaw-dropping \$2 trillion that Democrats borrowed and spent back in March might unleash inflation and do more harm than good.

The economy was already packed with dry powder. Households already had record savings. Supply chains and inventories were already strapped. American families did not need a grand socialist experiment. They just needed the government to let things finally, finally, get back to normal.

But the President, the Speaker, and the Democratic leader still slapped another \$2 trillion on the country's credit card, and it has bought us a level of inflation that is unprecedented in recent memory.

Costs for working families have shot up. Inflation is running so hot that even though American workers have seen a 3.6-percent pay increase on average since last year, it has been completely swamped, wiped out and then some by inflation. In real terms, American workers' pay has actually gone down—down—nearly 2 percent since last July.

So let me say this again. On Democrats' watch, inflation has turned a 3.6-percent annual pay raise for Americans